



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame is holding an exciting Alumnae Event on November 7 to celebrate more than 170 local women who have been honored over the past two decades for their outstanding contributions to the community. In 1993, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County Health Care Foundation, and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women established the Women's Hall of Fame to recognize outstanding women for their achievements and contributions to community life.

The women are honored at a luncheon each spring that also generates funds to support nonprofit organizations that help women and families in Alameda County. For the program's 20th Anniversary, we have decided to hold a gathering of alumnae in hopes of leveraging their leadership and insight on how we can grow the program and expand its influence in our community. Honorees are being asked to bring a girl or young woman to the event to underscore the Women's Hall of Fame's central mission to inspire the next generation of women leaders. We also will seek their ideas on how to grow the program's Youth Scholarship Fund, which each year supports the educational pursuits of a young woman.

The Women's Hall of Fame is now accepting nominations for 2014. Nominations are accepted for outstanding women in 12 categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Philanthropy; Science, Technology, Engineering; Sports and Athletics; and Youth.

The next group of inductees will be honored at a luncheon in March 2014. To submit a nomination, go to <http://acgov.org/cao/halloffame/> or call (510) 272-3882.

Alameda County Wins National Award for Top Government Website

In September, Alameda County was named a first-place winner in the annual rankings of the best state and local government websites. Alameda County topped the County Portal category in the nationwide Best of the Web awards contest judged by the Center for Digital Government, which cited the County's Web offerings as "a good example of how a significant amount of information can be presented cleanly and intuitively within a main web-



site, mobile website and mobile apps." Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator, said the award validates the County's focus on establishing a website that addresses the public's many needs and is user-friendly. The County's many online offerings are consistent with our broader commitment to civic engagement and community outreach as well as our

ongoing push to provide government services as efficiently as possible. The award was announced on September 3 by Government Technology magazine. The announcement cited the effective way that Alameda County's website, ACGOV.ORG, leverages social media – with buttons for the County's Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Pinterest accounts displayed prominently across its homepage. The website also offers podcasts, RSS feeds and a sign-up button for email notifications. Tim Dupuis, Interim Director of Information Technology for Alameda County, lauded his staff for creating a website that provides users access to a vast trove of information, while remaining simple, uncluttered and easy to use.

County Helps Residents Seize New Health Care Opportunities

Alameda County has shifted into high gear when it comes to helping people enroll in health insurance programs under the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, that will take full effect in January 2014. Much of the public's attention focused on October 1, the first day of open enrollment for Covered California. Covered California is a health care exchange where people can enroll in subsidized health insurance programs that will provide health insurance to millions of previously uninsured Americans.

The County held a series of public forums in recent weeks to help community organizations understand the changes in eligibility and enrollment under the Affordable Care Act and to encourage community-based providers to join the effort to maximize enrollment. A final forum will be held in November; to learn more about County-sponsored forums, go to <http://www.achealthcare.org>.

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County Assessment Roll Increases by More than 5 Percent

Alameda County Assessor Ron Thomsen has completed the 2013-2014 local assessment roll of \$215.3 billion, reflecting a \$10.6 billion or 5.17% increase above last year's assessment roll. The biggest factor in this year's assessed value growth is the recovery in real estate market values. Properties that were afforded reduced assessments in prior years due to market value declines are now receiving increases in their assessed value due to increases in market value. Other factors included the 2% mandatory inflation index applied to the assessed value of properties not affected by recent market value declines. This factor added \$2.1 billion. Sales/transfers of real estate also added \$3.1 billion, new construction added \$1.3 billion, and business personal property assessments increased by \$.4 billion. The 2013-14 assessment roll reflects assessments of more than 498,000 taxable properties. Notifications of this year's individual assessments were mailed to Alameda County property owners starting on July 16. Property owners with questions regarding their property assessment should call the Assessor's Office at (510) 272-3787 (real estate assessments) or (510) 272-3836 (business personal property assessments).

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There are over 6.8 million uninsured individuals in California, with an estimated 200,000 uninsured right here in Alameda County, and the ACA provides new insurance opportunities to decrease the numbers of uninsured. Recent events have shown Alameda County to be particularly well prepared for the tectonic shifts that are planned under Health Reform. Alameda County started to "pre-enroll" low-income residents more than two years ago into the State's Low Income Health Program. It was developed as a "bridge to health care reform" to offer services to the population that will be newly eligible for Medi-Cal under Obamacare. The County already has pre-enrolled more than 90 percent of its newly eligible Medi-Cal population. In addition, the Social Services Agency opened a new Call Center that is operating with extended weekday and weekend hours to ensure the needs of County residents are served. The Call Center received nearly 600 calls during the first week of enrollment. The significant demand for these services prompted the Board of Supervisors on October 8 to authorize funds to hire 185 additional workers to staff the Call Center.

11th Annual Day of Remembrance October 25

Alameda County held its 11th Annual Day of Remembrance ceremony on Friday, October 25, to honor victims of domestic violence. The event outside the County Administration Building in Oakland included a touching annual tradition in which the names of local people killed as a result of domestic violence were read aloud. The event was held in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was sponsored by the Alameda County Family Justice Center, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley and County Supervisor Richard Valle.

D.A.'s Justice Academy Receives Statewide Award

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley announced in September that her Office's Justice Academy won the 2013 California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Merit Award in its Challenge Awards Competition. CSAC's annual statewide program honors innovation in county government. An independent panel of judges with expertise in county programs and challenges selected the award recipients. The District Attorney's Justice Academy offers a six-month learning and working experience for high school students aged 16 to 18. Presented in conjunction with the community-based organization East Bay Community Services, the Academy consists of bi-weekly seminars during which outstanding speakers discuss a wide variety of topics covering the fields of criminal justice, social justice, civil and family law, and the courts. Over summer vacation, each student is placed in a law-related paid summer job. The Spring 2014 Academy will be available to public high school students in the Tri-Valley, Tri-Cities, and Eden area regions of Alameda County. "I am tremendously proud that the Justice Academy is a recipient of this award," states District Attorney O'Malley. "I believe that through meaningful youth engagement, we help to shape our leaders of tomorrow and make our communities safer and stronger." In addition to the California Award, the District Attorney's Justice Academy was the recipient of the 2013 National Association of Counties Achievement Award in the category of youth and children.

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County Leads Groundbreaking Renewable Energy Project

Under Alameda County's leadership, public agencies in four Bay Area counties have embarked on the largest collaborative procurement of renewable energy of its kind in the nation. The Regional Renewable Energy Procurement (R-REP) Project will bring clean, renewable energy to up to 187 sites including community centers, libraries, fire stations, medical



facilities, city halls and educational facilities across the Bay Area. Approximately 31 megawatts of power will be developed at public facilities in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties through the installation of solar panels on rooftops and carports, fuel cell power generation systems, and solar thermal applications. If all sites are developed, these projects would together comprise the largest procurement of renewable energy for public agencies in the country, and would effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the amount generated by over 6,300 average-sized homes for an entire year. "Under Alameda County's leadership, this collaboration will save participating agencies administrative costs and the large-scale purchase will lower pricing for those agencies," noted Supervisor Keith Carson, President of the Board of Supervisors. Agencies will also realize sustained reductions in utility operating costs through the use of power from renewable sources. "This outstanding collaboration highlights several of our priorities here in Alameda County, including sustainability and green energy production, as well as productive partnerships that enable us to maximize the return on the tax dollars we invest," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. Alameda County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project in September. A recent analysis found that 839 jobs would be created as a result of the initiative if all 187 sites are developed. The potential for job creation in Alameda County alone is 672 jobs. Bidders are asked to show a commitment to local hiring and demonstrate ties to vocational programs in the community. To view the Request for Proposals, visit <http://bit.ly/19Xozid>.

County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government/>
Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
Awards won by Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/awards/>
Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies
<http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm>
Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/government/employment.htm>
Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/government/formscenter.htm>
Alameda County Superior Court <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>

For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at <http://www.acgov.org/calendar>. Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).